AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for establishing trust in an email client, ~~the~~ method comprising:

accepting in an email server a data communications connection from an email client, wherein the connection includes the email client's network address;

determining from a stored list of trusted network addresses whether the email client is trusted according to the email client's network address;

if the email client is not trusted according to the email client's network address, receiving authentication data from the email client and determining whether the email client is trusted according to the authentication data; and

if the email client is not trusted according to the email client's network address and the email client is not trusted according to the authentication data, receiving a sender domain name for an email message from the email client and determining whether the email client is trusted according to the sender domain name~~.~~, wherein determining whether the email client is trusted according to the sender domain

name further comprises requesting from a domain name service a resource record of a type that lists for a sender domain network addresses of email exchanges that are authorized to act as outbound email exchanges for the sender domain.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether the email client is trusted according to the sender domain name further comprises determining whether a domain name service resource record associates the email client's network address with the sender domain name, the DNS resource record being of a type that lists for a sender domain network addresses of email exchanges that are authorized to act as outbound email exchanges for the sender domain.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the email client is trusted according to the authentication data, and the method further comprises storing the email client's network address in association with a trust time limit in the list of trusted network addresses.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

accepting in the email server a connection from an email client requesting delivery of an email message according to a protocol that includes client authentication, wherein the connection includes the network address of the email client requesting delivery of an email message;

authenticating the email client requesting delivery of an email message;

delivering the email message to the email client requesting delivery of an email message; and

storing the network address of the email client requesting delivery of an email message in association with a trust time limit in the list of trusted network addresses.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the email client is an email exchange that accepts outbound email messages only from trusted senders.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a sender domain name further comprises receiving the sender domain name in an SMTP MAILFROM message.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the email client is not trusted according to the email client's network address, the email client is not trusted according to the authentication, the email client is not trusted according to the sender domain name, and the method further comprises sending an error message to the email client and closing the connection.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for establishing trust in an email client, the system comprising:

means for accepting in an email server a data communications connection from an email client, wherein the connection includes the email client's network address;

means for determining from a stored list of trusted network addresses whether the email client is trusted according to the email client's network address;

means for receiving authentication data from the email client and means for determining whether the email client is trusted according to the authentication data if the email client is not trusted according to the email client's network address; and

means for receiving a sender domain name for an email message from the email client and means for determining whether the email client is trusted according to the sender domain name if the email client is not trusted according to the email client's network address and the email client is not trusted according to the authentication data-, wherein means for determining whether the email client is trusted according to the sender domain name further comprises means for requesting from a domain name service a resource record of a type that lists for a sender domain network addresses of email exchanges that are authorized to act as outbound email exchanges for the sender domain.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein means for determining whether the email client is trusted according to the sender domain name further comprises means for determining whether a domain name service resource record associates the email client's network address with the sender domain name, the DNS resource record being of a type that lists for a sender domain network addresses of email exchanges that are authorized to act as outbound email exchanges for the sender domain.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the email client is trusted according to the authentication data, and the system further comprises means for storing the email client's network address in association with a trust time limit in the list of trusted network addresses.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9 further comprising:

means for accepting in the email server a connection from an email client requesting delivery of an email message according to a protocol that includes client authentication, wherein the connection includes the network address of the email client requesting delivery of an email message;

means for authenticating the email client requesting delivery of an email message;

means for delivering the email message to the email client requesting delivery of an email message; and

means for storing the network address of the email client requesting delivery of an email message in association with a trust time limit in the list of trusted network addresses.

14. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the email client is an email exchange that accepts outbound email messages only from trusted senders.

15. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein means for receiving a sender domain name further comprises means for receiving the sender domain name in an SMTP MAILFROM message.

16. (Original) The system of claim 9 further comprising means for sending an error message to the email client and means for closing the connection if the email client is not trusted according to the email client's network address, the email client is not trusted according to the authentication, and the email client is not trusted according to the sender domain name.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for establishing trust in an email client, the computer program product comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for accepting in an email server a data communications connection from an email client, wherein the connection includes the email client's network address;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining from a stored list of trusted network addresses whether the email client is trusted according to the email client's network address;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving authentication data from the email client and means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining whether the email client is trusted according to the authentication data if the email client is not trusted according to the email client's network address; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving a sender domain name for an email message from the email client and means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining whether the email client is trusted according to the sender domain name if the email client is not trusted according to the email client's network address and the email client is not trusted according to the authentication data-, wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining whether the email client is trusted according to the sender domain name further comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for requesting from a domain name service a resource record of a type that lists for a sender domain network addresses of email exchanges that are authorized to act as outbound email exchanges for the sender domain.

18.   (Cancelled)

19.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining whether the email client is trusted according to the sender domain name further comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining whether a domain name service resource record associates the email client's network address with the sender domain name, the DNS resource record being of a type that lists for a sender domain network

addresses of email exchanges that are authorized to act as outbound email exchanges for the sender domain.

20.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the email client is trusted according to the authentication data, and the computer program product further comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for storing the email client's network address in association with a trust time limit in the list of trusted network addresses.

21.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising:

means, recorded on the recording medium, for accepting in the email server a connection from an email client requesting delivery of an email message according to a protocol that includes client authentication, wherein the connection includes the network address of the email client requesting delivery of an email message;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for authenticating the email client requesting delivery of an email message;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for delivering the email message to the email client requesting delivery of an email message; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for storing the network address of the email client requesting delivery of an email message in association with a trust time limit in the list of trusted network addresses.

22.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the email client is an email exchange that accepts outbound email messages only from trusted senders.

23.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving a sender domain name further comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving the sender domain name in an SMTP MAILFROM message.

24.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising means, recorded on the recording medium, for sending an error message to the email client and means, recorded on the recording medium, for closing the connection if the email client is not trusted according to the email client's network address, the email client is not trusted according to the authentication, and the email client is not trusted according to the sender domain name.